

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:CHEILEMAN

APPROVED BY:S/-O:PSARROS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 151316

EXDIS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM TEHRAN DATED JULY 12, 1974 SENT
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BEIRUT, AMMAN, CAIRO, JIDDA, TEL AVIV,
DAMASCUS, BAGHDAD IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T TEHRAN 5717

EXDIS

DEPT PAS TO SECDEF, USCINCEUR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, US, IR, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE REQUEST FOR IRANIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE

1. DURING MEETING ON OTHER MATTERS MORNING JULY 12
FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY TOLD ME THAT LEBANESE
CHIEF OF STAFF HAD RECENTLY APPROACHED IRAN' AMBASSADOR
IN BEIRUT AND REVIVED A PLEA IT HAD MADE SOME TIME AGO
FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT. KHALATBARY SAID THAT THE LAST
TIME LEBANON HAD APPROACHED IRAN IT HAD ASKED FOR FRENCH
MANUFACTURED EQUIPMENT PRESUMABLY BECAUSE THIS WAS THE
TYPE WITH WHICH IT WAS MOST FAMILIAR. IRAN HAVING NONE
IN ITS INVENTORY WAS UNABLE TO BE RESPONSIVE.

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2. KHALATBARY SAID THAT THE LEBANESE CHIEF OF STAFF

HAD ALSO URGED IRAN'S HELP IN PERSUADING THE U.S. TO BE RESPONSIVE TO A PARALLEL REQUEST TO US FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT. HE SAID THE CHIEF OF STAFF COMPLAINED THAT WE HAD BEEN DRAGGING OUR FEET PRESUMABLY IN CONSIDERATION OF OUR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL. NOW THE CHIEF OF STAFF SAID THE SITUATION IS GETTING DESPERATE.

3. KHALATBARY SAID THAT IRAN SHARES LEBANON'S CONCERN BUT MOREOVER IS ALARMED BY THE POSSIBILITY THAT LEBANON IN DESPERATION MAY TURN TO THE SOVIET UNION IF IT GETS NO HELP FROM US. IN THIS CONNECTION HE MENTIONED A JULY 11 PRESS REPORT THAT BREZHNEV HAD MADE AN OFFER OF ARMS TO LEBANON. KHALATBARY SAID THAT HE ASSUMED WE WOULD SHARE IRAN'S CONCERN OVER SUCH A DEVELOPMENT.

4. AFTER ASSURING KHALATBARY THAT I WOULD OF COURSE REPORT THIS IMMEDIATELY, I ASKED HIM ABOUT RECENT PRESS REPORTS THAT THE ARABS HAD OFFERED LEBANON MILITARY ASSISTANCE BUT THAT THE OFFER HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN. HE SAID THAT WAS PERFECTLY EASY TO UNDERSTAND. LEBANON HAD ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH PALESTINIANS WITHIN ITS OWN BORDERS AND DID NOT NEED OTHER TROUBLEMAKERS SUCH AS THE IRAQUIS SHOWING UP.
MIKLOS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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